AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 28 and 43 as set forth below. Claims 1-27, 29, 30, 45-47, 49, 51-56 and 59-61 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuation or divisional patent applications.

Claims 1-27. (Canceled)

Claim 28. (**Currently amended**) A method ~~for~~ of treating ~~an~~ estrogen ~~deficient~~ deficiency in a woman, and ~~who suffers from breast cancer, or has a risk of recurrent breast cancer, or has a risk of developing breast cancer, wherein said woman demonstrates~~ symptoms associated therewith in a woman, ~~of estrogen deficiency, the method~~ comprising administering~~,~~ ~~to the woman,~~ a composition comprising ~~an extract of~~ *Cimicifuga racemosa*, or an aqueous or an alcoholic extract thereof, wherein the woman has breast cancer, has had breast cancer, or has a risk of developing breast cancer ~~said extract obtainable by vortexing *Cimicifuga racemosa* material in an aqueous solution~~.

Claims 29-30. (Canceled)

Claim 31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the composition has an estrogen-like effect which manifests itself in the composition being capable of inducing an increase in uterine weight in adult ovariectomized NMRI female athymic nude mice.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the increase in uterine weight following a dose comparable to a normal dose for the woman to be treated corresponds to a weight increase seen in the same test animal following estradiol treatment.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein the increase in uterine weight following a dose comparable to a normal dose for the woman to be treated

corresponds to a substantially maximum weight increase obtainable in the same test animal by estrogen treatment.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the estrogen-like effect possessed by the composition manifests itself in the composition being capable of inducing a lowering in FSH and LH in a woman.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) A method according to any of claims ~~30~~ 31-34, wherein the estrogen-like effect possessed by the composition manifests itself in the composition being capable of inducing an estrogen like change in vaginal cytology in a woman.

Claim 36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the composition has no effect on the growth of estrogen receptor-negative cancer cells.

Claim 37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the composition has no effect on the growth of xenografts of the estrogen and progesteron receptor-negative MDA-MB-231 (ATCC HTB-26) human breast cancer cell line in nude mice.

Claim 38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the composition is free from any effect on breast cancer cells when the breast cancer cells are estrogen receptor-positive.

Claim 39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the composition has substantially no agonizing and substantially no antagonizing effect on the effect of estrogen on breast cancer cells, when the breast cancer cells are estrogen receptor-positive.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the composition substantially does not bind to estrogen receptors of cancer cells.

Claim 41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein the composition has no effect on xenografts of the estrogen receptor-positive and estrogen dependent MCF-7 (ATCC HTB-22) human breast cancer cell line in nude mice, as evidenced by the

composition having no growth supportive effect and no growth inhibitory effect on the xenografts whether given alone or in combination with estradiol.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein the composition has no effect on xenografts of the estrogen receptor-positive and estrogen dependent MCF-7 (ATCC HTB-22) human breast cancer cell line in nude mice, as evidenced by the composition having no growth supportive effect and no growth inhibitory effect on the xenografts whether given alone or in combination with estradiol, when the composition is administered in a dose which is 10 times higher than a dose giving, in the same strain of nude mice, a maximum uterus weight increase.

Claim 43. (**Currently amended**) A method according to claim 28, wherein the ~~estrogen deficient~~ woman suffers from at least one condition selected from the group consisting of a dermatological disorder, dryness of mucous membranes, a brain related disease, a bone and joint related disease, vaginal estrogen deficiency, a coronary heart disease, hyperlipidaemia, hypercholesterolaemia, ~~or~~ and arteriosclerosis.

Claim 44. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 43, wherein the at least one condition is a menopausal symptom which is caused by estrogen deficiency.

Claims 45-47. (Canceled)

Claim 48. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 or 43, wherein the composition is a composition comprising SPP-001.

Claim 49. (Canceled)

Claim 50. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the composition is combined with a drug which has a selective estrogen receptor modulating (SERM) activity.

Claims 51-56. (Canceled).

Claim 57. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the composition is free from a stimulating effect on breast cancer.

Claim 58. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the composition has substantially no agonizing and substantially no antagonizing effect on the effect of estradiol on breast cancer cells.

Claims 59-61. (Canceled)